

Wycombe ten men hold Wimbledon to a single goal

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WAND 0 : WIMBLEDON ... 1

REDUCED to ten men in the first minute, after an injury to left-winger Steve Hyde, who made two valiant attempts to return, Wycombe Wanderers fought a magnificent defensive battle in their Isthmian League game against Wimbledon, and contained them to a single goal. Wimbledon have now gained maximum points from their last 11 league games.

Wycombe: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Horseman, James, Pullin, Hyde.

Wimbledon: McAlpine; Martin, Rudge, Wallis, Law, Ardrey, Keats, Brown, Reynolds, Moore, Williams.

Referee: R. Skinner (Waltham Cross).

Hyde was taken off with an injured leg after a kick on the shin in the first attack of the match, and Wimbledon soon had the home defence fighting a rearguard action.

Hyde returned after eight minutes but collapsed again and had to be carried off. Ten minutes later he made another attempt to resume but was again carried off.

Wycombe's new player, George Bullin, made several sweeping passes which set the depleted attack in motion, and he himself almost scored direct from a corner kick, McAlpine tipping the ball over the cross-bar.

Brown made several plucky saves under fierce pressure by the burly Wimbledon forwards, who played with great vigor by the lanky Eddie Reynolds, who looked dangerous whenever he had the ball.

Play was confined largely to the Wycombe half but the home defence, undeterred by the Don's uncompromising tactics, played with a cool assurance.

When Wycombe's four forwards hit back just before half-time James headed in—a split second after the referee had whistled for a corner-kick as Worley dribbled the ball down the by-line.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Wimbledon 0.

Skipper Len Worley led Wycombe's ten men on a series of strong attacks early in the second half. But after Gale had gone close with a long range shot, Wimbledon took up the attack again.

The home centre half, Fisher, was injured in a collision with the Don's inside right Les Brown and a little later, in the 56th minute, REYNOLDS put Wimbledon ahead with a neat header from a centre by Keats.

Wycombe, however, were by no means outplayed and several brisk attacks gave the Wimbledon defence some anxious moments.

Horseman played with great persistency but the weakened left wing meant that James had inadequate support in the centre and goalkeeper McAlpine was rarely in action.

The Wycombe backs continued to play soundly and their close marking made it extremely difficult for the Wimbledon forwards to get in a shot.

But they were unlucky when a shot by Les Brown was diverted into the goalmouth by Reynolds but stopped on the line by the vigilant Beck.

Then the Wycombe goalkeeper made a brilliant save from a crashing shot by his namesake, Les Brown.

RESULT

WYCOMBE W.	0
WIMBLEDON	1

WYCOMBE HIT BY INJURIES

Wycombe 0 Wimbledon 1

PLAYING with only 10 men after an injury to their young left winger Steve Hyde, who dislocated his knee in the first few minutes, Wycombe Wanderers were forced to stage a stubborn defensive battle in this Isthmian League game.

But the Wycombe 10 were by no means outplayed by the bolsterous, aggressive Wimbledon side who had won their previous 10 League games and twice the plucky Hyde made unsuccessful attempts to resume before he was finally forced to retire.

Home defenders Beck, Fisher and Lewis defended gallantly against an attack kept constantly on the move by the wily scheming of inside-left Moore and the tireless energy of Les Brown.

But it was not until seven minutes after the interval, after another injury—this time to Fisher—that centre-forward Eddie Reynolds headed the Wimbledon winner from a centre by Keats.

Skipper Len Worley inspired some brisk Wycombe counter-attacks but Wanderers newcomer George Pullin languished in a lone role on the left wing in his first senior game, and James lacked support in the centre.

When Wimbledon monopolised play as the depleted Wycombe side tired towards the end, goalkeeper Ken Brown prevented a heavier reverse with some smart clearances from Les Brown and Reynolds.